

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Diana Hynek 06/09/2003
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.
Room 6625
Washington, DC 20230

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for the extension of approval of an information collection received on 04/24/2003.

TITLE: Pacific Billfish Angler Survey

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): 88-10

ACTION : APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE

OMB NO.: 0648-0020

EXPIRATION DATE: 06/30/2006

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS(\$,000)
Previous	750	63	0
New	1,250	104	0
Difference	500	41	0
Program Change		0	0
Adjustment		41	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

OMB Authorizing Official Title

Donald R. Arbuckle Deputy Administrator, Office of
Information and Regulatory Affairs

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated 5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
7. Title	
8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)	
9. Keywords	
10. Abstract	
11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals or households d. <input type="checkbox"/> Farms b. <input type="checkbox"/> Business or other for-profit e. <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government c. <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit institutions f. <input type="checkbox"/> State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Application for benefits e. <input type="checkbox"/> Program planning or management b. <input type="checkbox"/> Program evaluation f. <input type="checkbox"/> Research c. <input type="checkbox"/> General purpose statistics g. <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory or compliance d. <input type="checkbox"/> Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission) Name: _____ Phone: _____

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
 - (i) Why the information is being collected;
 - (ii) Use of information;
 - (iii) Burden estimate;
 - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
 - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
 - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)	
Signature	Date
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature	Date

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH ANGLER SURVEY
OMB CONTROL #0648-0020**

This information is provided by the project leader, Dave Holts (Research Fishery Biologist) located at the Southwest Fishery Science Center (SWFSC). (858) 546-7186, E-mail david.holts@noaa.gov.

SECTION A: JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

This Angler Survey began in 1969 and is an integral part of the Billfish Research Program at the Southwest Fishery Science Center (SWFSC). The Angler Survey tracks recreational angler fishing catch and effort for billfish in the Pacific and Indian oceans used by scientists and fishery managers. This Angler Survey is intended for anglers cooperating in the Billfish Program and is entirely voluntary. The National Marine Fisheries Service collects fishing catch and effort information for most domestic and foreign fisheries. This Angler Survey is specific to recreational anglers fishing for Istiophorid billfish in the Pacific and Indian oceans; as such it provides the only estimates of catch per unit of effort (CPUE) for recreational billfish fishing in those areas.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

This post card survey is conducted annually to track CPUE trends in the recreational fishery for Istiophorid billfish. The Angler Survey form asks for the number of fishing days the angler expended, number and kind of billfish caught and the location fished in the preceding year. Data from this Angler Survey is utilized by fishery biologists investigating the health and stock condition of billfish resources throughout the Pacific and Indian oceans. Specifically this data is used to track changing trends in recreational fishing effort in key areas throughout the Pacific and Indian oceans. Results are produced as in-house data reports, published in peer reviewed scientific journals, in the Billfish Newsletter and elsewhere as appropriate. The Billfish Newsletter is an annual publication providing a summary of the Angler Survey, and other Program results, to the billfish angling community and is the primary outreach instrument to Program participants. Current and past issues of the Billfish Newsletter are available on the SWFSC's home page (<http://swfsc.ucsd.edu>).

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NOAA Fisheries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response #10 of this

Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

The collection varies each year as new participants join and non-respondents are purged from address data files. Collection of Angler Survey data does not utilize electronic or automated technology at this time. Survey forms (post cards) are sent to participants in December of each year. Cards received are entered into a data base as received. We are currently investigating use of optical character readers and placing the Angler Survey post card form on the SWFSC's home Web page in Web server form.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

The SWFSC's Angler Survey is the only study tracking billfish angling CPUE by domestic and international anglers in the Pacific and Indian oceans. The Angler Survey is unique to the billfish angling community and is duplicated nowhere.

The National Marine Fisheries collects fishing effort data for most commercial and recreational fisheries. The Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) conducts telephone and dock survey data to track general recreational fishing effort within the U.S. The MRFSS does not identify fishing effort for the large, migratory billfish (Istiophorid) throughout the Pacific and Indian oceans. There are no known foreign agencies duplicating this effort.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

The Survey deals with individual anglers cooperating in the Angler Survey and does not impact any business entity.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

Results of the Angler Survey are used by fishery research biologists at the SWFSC in determining the status of billfish stocks, biomass and trends in CPUE. This information is provided to fishery managers at the Fishery Management Councils and used in determining regulatory options. A break or disruption in the Angler Survey time line would jeopardize the SWFSC's ability to provide accurate management advice and recommendations to domestic fishery managers and to the State Department dealing with international fishery treaties.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

This Survey is consistent with all OMB guidelines.

8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A copy of the PRA Federal Register, dated December 13, 2002 (Vol. 67, No. 240) is attached. No comments were received from the notice in the Federal Register. Additional angler comments concerning the Angler Survey are requested annually in the Billfish Newsletter. No additional comments were received in 2002.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

Response to the Angler Survey is completely voluntary. No rewards or offerings of any kind are available or offered to the respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

Angler Survey data and results are not confidential.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

This angler Survey is entirely a recreational fishing query to determine angler catch and effort. There are no "sensitive" questions.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

The burden to complete the Angler Survey respondent card is about 5 minutes per response. Although our active mailing list varies from 1,800 to 2,200 participants, the total number of respondents to the Angler Survey averages 800 to 1,500. My estimate of 1,250 respondents is based on results over the last two years. Total annual burden is then estimated at 104 hours (1250 x 5/60=104). Also see Section B, Number 1.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in #12 above).

Respondent costs are limited to the time required to fill out the Angler Survey card, about 5 minutes. Postage is paid by the SWFSC if mailed from within the U.S. For those respondents mailing from foreign countries there is only the cost of postage and that is small.

14. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in #12 above).

Annual cost to conduct the Survey is approximately \$2,500. This includes printing, postage, and return postage when mailed in the US. This figure is based on actual expenses averaged over the last two years. Less clear is the in-house cost of staff (1 GS-9 and 1 GS-12) to order the printing, print the mailing labels, and mail the post cards. I believe 32 to 40 hours combined staff hours to complete the mail out. Not included is staff time to enter respondent data into the data base, analyze data, report results in-house, prepare various manuscripts, prepare the Billfish Newsletter and respond to the Paperwork Reduction Act requirements.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I.

The adjustment change to burden occurred due to re-estimation of the number of respondents.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

The Angler Survey is conducted on a calendar year with completion scheduled by May of the following year. The Billfish Newsletter is the outreach method by which the SWFSC provides feedback to the recreational fishing community and is written for cooperating anglers participating in the Angler Survey and for the volunteers who conduct tag and release fishing for billfish. Content varies annually but always includes angling effort by area and species captured, reported catches, results from billfish tagging and general interest articles directed to the billfish angler. This peer reviewed newsletter is approved for release by the SWFSC's Director. More robust analysis are conducted in support of fishery management and are reported in in-house reports, peer reviewed scientific publications, and in Fishery Management Plans.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

The expiration date will be displayed.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

None.

SECTION B: COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g. establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.

The potential respondent universe includes foreign and domestic billfish anglers participating in the SWFSC's Billfish Tagging Program. Also included in the respondent base are institutions and NGO's interested in the program but generally do not fish. To be placed on the Angler Survey mailing list the angler (or institution) must either 1) contact the SWFSC and request to be placed on the mailing list or 2) be a participating tagger in the Billfish Tagging Program. The primary survey targeted respondent base is the US billfish angler fishing in U.S. or U.S.-adjacent waters including Trust Territories in the South and Western Pacific. The Angler Survey also queries foreign billfish anglers fishing in Central and South American countries, New Zealand, Australia and several Asian countries. These foreign anglers have a lower response rate than U.S. anglers. The total respondent universe and response rates for 2000 and 2001 are tabulated below. Preliminary (incomplete) results for 2002 are also included.

Respondents	2000		2001		2002**	
Category	:Universe	Response	: Universe	Response	: Universe	Response
US Anglers	: -	-	: 1952	69%	: 1839	74%
Foreign Anglers	: -	-	: 128	48%	: 130	44%
Institutions	: -	-	: 87	0%	: 76	0%
Total	: 1856	26%*	: 2167	65%	: 2045	69%

* Prior submissions for PRA approval, i.e. 2000, only reported the respondents as shown in the Billfish Newsletter. That number only indicates the actual number of anglers reporting positive fishing effort and is not the total number angler survey cards received. Many more survey cards are returned indicating "no fishing effort" but they want to remain on the mailing list and continue to receive the Billfish Newsletter. Also a large number of survey cards are sent to interested NGO's, sportfishing companies, conservation groups, etc. that basically do not fish or return the survey cards as indicated in the table.

** Preliminary respondents as of 2/28/2003. Additional Survey cards will be accepted for data analysis through 3/31/2003.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection, including: the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; the estimation procedure; the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

This annual billfish Angler Survey is sent to all billfish anglers and taggers that have participated in the SWFSC's billfish research programs during the prior two year period. All are encouraged to complete and return the Survey card. Statistical analysis of regional fishing CPUE is robust in regions reporting greater than 100 days fishing effort. Those regions reporting less than 100 days of fishing effort are acceptable when indicating a consistent trend over time. These statistical procedures are generally very accurate as they include parameters of central tendency and variability statistics. More robust statistics are employed to analyze long term trends in CPUE which include multiple regression and correlation with regional fishery, economic and environmental factors. These analyses are utilized by fishery biologists and managers in determining changes in the status of fishery resources and by the Pacific Fishery Management Council in support of regulatory options. Any reduced effort (less frequent than annual) would compromise the 34-year time series resulting in reduced ability to provide robust analyses as mandated.

3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with nonresponse. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

All individual anglers participating in the SWFSC's Billfish Tagging Program are encouraged to complete the Survey card through the Billfish Newsletter and by SWFSC staff working directly with individuals, sport fishing clubs and other organizations. The response rate for U.S. anglers is very good but the response rate from foreign anglers fishing in small or remote countries is not as good as we would like. Those countries reporting less than 100 days of fishing effort per year are analyzed with the understanding that small sample sizes result in higher variability.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.

Tests to refine the collection protocol have not been conducted because of limited funding and staff. The survey results do indicate some refinements could improve the response rates particularly for foreign and institutional respondents.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

The Project Leader is David Holts, Research Fishery Biologist (858.546.7186).
The Division Chief is Dr. John Hunter (858.546.7128).

The sponsor proposes to provide the following PRA information in the Billfish Newsletter that accompanies the survey forms, since the form is small and cannot handle all of the information required. The other OMB number and expiration date appears on the survey form itself.

“The NMFS needs this information for the conservation and management of fishery resources. The information will be used for billfish research. Public reporting burden for the survey is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to David Holts at the address on the form. The information submitted will be a public record. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.”

ATTENTION

Greetings billfish anglers! Please complete the attached *Billfish Angler Survey* for 2002 and return as soon as possible. The results will be summarized for the next issue of the *Billfish Newsletter* which is currently being compiled.

Remember that one form should be filled out per angler - if another copy is required, the enclosed form may be photocopied. If your name or address differs from what is on the mail label, please indicate the change in the space provided. When you are finished filling out the survey form, simply fold it in thirds so that the "NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE - NOAA" address is on the outside, staple or tape it closed, and drop it in the mail - postage is paid in the USA.

Thank you for your support.
Smooth seas and good fishing.

David B. Holts, Biologist
Randall C. Rasmussen, Computer Specialist

PACIFIC-INDIAN OCEAN INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH ANGLING SURVEY
FOR BILLFISH CAUGHT IN CALENDAR YEAR 2002

NOAA FORM 88-10
05/24/02
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla
CMB NO. 0648-0020
05/31/2003
In cooperation with International Game Fish Association
and other government and civilian organizations

LOCATION	1. HOW MANY DAYS FISHED FOR BILLFISH DURING 2002	2. TOTAL NUMBER BILLFISH CAUGHT DURING 2002					
		BLUE MARLIN	BLACK MARLIN	STRIPED MARLIN	SALFISH	SHORTBILLED SPEARFISH	SWORDFISH
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA							
BAJA CALIFORNIA							
GUAYMAS							
MAZATLAN							
PUERTO VALLARTA							
MANZANILLO							
ACAPULCO							
GUATEMALA							
COSTA RICA							
PANAMA							
COLOMBIA							
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS							
TAHITI							
FUJI							
KIRIBATI							
MARSHALL ISLANDS							
MIDWAY ISLAND							
NEW ZEALAND							
NEW GUINEA							
AUSTRALIA							
JAPAN							
MALDIVE ISLANDS							
KENYA							
DUBAI U.A.E.							
OTHER							
OTHER							

Please Fill This Out

Name:	
Street Address:	City/Town:
Country/State:	ZIP or Mailing Code:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 99133 WASHINGTON DC

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE NOAA
SOUTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER
8604 LA JOLLA SHORES DRIVE
LA JOLLA CA 92037-1508
USA



**PACIFIC-INDIAN OCEAN INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH ANGLING SURVEY
FOR 2002 ONLY**

BILLFISH ANGLERS: This survey to determine the trend in recreational fishing in the Pacific Ocean has been conducted annually since 1969. The survey is in cooperation with the International Game Fish Association. Your response will enable us to determine average catch rates of specific billfish in the areas indicated on the other side of this card. Accurate records are needed to determine the effect heavy fishing on billfish resources is having on the anglers catch. Response is voluntary.

For each angler that fished for billfish in 2002 we request that you individually, and as accurately as possible, indicate the number of days you fished for billfish during the calendar year of 2002 and the number of billfish caught by species. **Fish tagged and/or released are counted as caught.** If you fished but were unsuccessful, it is still important to indicate the number of actual days fished.

The U.S. Government requires that all mailing lists be revised annually. If you did not fish but would like to remain on the mailing list, complete the address portion at the bottom of this card and return. If you do not return the card, your name will be removed from our mailing list. Your cooperation is requested, and by completing the address portion you will be advised on the survey results. **Please return by FEBRUARY 2003.** Postage is not required if mailed in the USA.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
SOUTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER
8604 LA JOLLA SHORES DRIVE
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92037
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

Sec. 760e. Study of migratory game fish; waters; research; purpose

The Secretary of Commerce is directed to undertake a comprehensive continuing study of the migratory marine fish of interest to recreational fishermen of the United States, including species inhabiting the offshore waters of the United States and species which migrate through or spend a part of their lives in the inshore waters of the United States. The study shall include, but not be limited to, research on migrations, identity of stocks, growth rates, mortality rates, variations in survival, environmental influences, both natural and artificial, including pollution, and effects of fishing on the species, for the purpose of developing wise conservation policies and constructive management activities.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 11, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Michael Travis, Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2439, (727)570-5335.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

NMFS proposes to collect information on fishing vessel expenses and earnings on a voluntary and continuous basis in the Gulf of Mexico offshore shrimp fishery in order to conduct socioeconomic analyses that will: improve fishery management making in that fishery; satisfy NMFS' legal mandates under Executive Order 12866, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (U.S.C. 1801 et. seq.), the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act; and quantify achievement of the performances measures in the NMFS Strategic Operating Plans. Used in conjunction with catch and effort data already being collected in this fishery as part of its dealer reporting program, as well as Coast Guard and fishing permit data on vessel characteristics, this data will be used to assess how fishermen will be impacted by and respond to any regulation likely to be considered by fishery managers. In addition, this data will be used to determine how fishing communities will be impacted by proposed fishing regulations. In the program's first year, the program will only cover vessels that primarily port in the state of Texas, with vessels from the other Gulf States being included in the second year.

II. Method of Collection

Data will be collected using personal interviews and a formal survey instrument. Compared to phone interviews and mail surveys, personal interviews have been shown to generally produce higher response rates and higher quality data. Interviews will be conducted once each year in regards to the previous year's activities. Vessel owners will be asked questions

pertaining to the variable costs of their fishing operations, such as price and amount of fuel used, price and amount of ice used, groceries, processing/selling fees, and labor costs. Vessel owners will also be asked questions regarding their vessel's annual or fixed costs, such as expenditures for vessel repair and maintenance, gear repair and maintenance, fishing licenses and permits, insurance, dock fees, repayment on boat and business loans, office expenses and so forth. Vessel owners will also be asked questions pertaining to the capital investment in their vessels, such as purchase price, cost of subsequent investments in the vessel and its fishing technology, and current market or replacement value. Finally, vessel owners will be asked questions regarding their socio-demographic status, such as household size, income, dependence on fishing, alternative employment opportunities, level of fishing experience, age, education level, ethnicity/race, marital status, and so forth. In instances where vessels are not operated by the owner, socio-demographic data will be solicited from both the owner and captain. Though unknown at this time, it is assumed that nearly 50 percent of these vessels are operated by hired captains.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations (vessel owners and captains).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 185.

Estimated Time Per Response: 20 minutes for variable cost and price questions; 30 minutes for annual/fixed cost and capital investment questions; and 10 minutes for socio-demographic questions.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 135.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the

use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 6, 2002.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-31448 Filed 12-12-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 120902D]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Pacific Billfish Angler Survey

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 11, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to David Holts, Southwest Fishery Science Center, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, P.O. Box 271, La Jolla, CA 92038-0271 (phone 858-546-7186).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Southwest Fishery Science Center operates a billfish resource and

assessment program. As part of this program, billfish anglers in the Pacific and Indian Oceans are asked to respond to a voluntary annual post card survey to list the number of days spent fishing for billfish, where they fished, and what they caught. This information is used to help determine changes in areas of local abundance of Pacific billfish and is useful in the management of billfish resources.

II. Method of Collection

A paper form the size of a postcard is used.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0020.

Form Number: NOAA Form 88-10.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 750.

Estimated Time Per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 63.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 6, 2002.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-31449 Filed 12-12-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 120902E]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Hurricane Forecast Economic Valuation Study

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 11, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed Dr. Rodney Weiher, U.S. Dept. of Commerce/NOAA/PSP, Room 6117, 14th and Constitution Ave NW, Washington DC, 20234. (or via Internet at Rodney.F.Weiher@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The purpose of this data collection is to provide information on the value of current and improved hurricane forecasts to specific segments of the U.S. population. The study will measure total economic values for current hurricane forecasts and improved hurricane forecasts. This effort is designed to provide information on the uses and values of hurricane forecasts in order to improve product design and delivery systems as well as information for managers on the value of undertaking programs to improve hurricane forecasting capabilities.

This effort will involve development of extensive knowledge about how hurricane forecasts are perceived, understanding the implications of alternative forecast improvement actions, designing original survey

instruments, interviewing of a large number of respondents (1200-1500), and conducting formal statistical analysis of the data. A regionally-oriented survey will be conducted using stated-preferences methods. Cognitive interviews will be used in survey development to examine individuals' understanding of hurricane forecasts and the words and meanings they may use to discuss hurricanes. The interviews will be used to examine the relative importance of hurricane forecast attributes, to assess the presentation of information on hurricane forecasts, and developing approaches for eliciting economic values for improvements in hurricane forecasting.

II. Method of Collection

Up to 96 one-on-one cognitive interviews will be conducted. In addition, one pretest of the full survey instrument will be tested for a response of up to 100 usable observations. The final survey instrument will be administered to a sample of up to 1500 people.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,696.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2 hours for an interview; 45 minutes for a pretest; and 45 minutes for a final survey.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,392.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection;